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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

50X1

DATE DISTR. 16 Feb. 1954

NO. OF PAGES 2

REFERENCES:

COUNTRY Poland 50X1

SUBJECT The Solvay Soda Plant, Matwy

DATE OF INFORMATION [REDACTED]

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

**THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION**

SOURCE [REDACTED]

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1. The Solvay Soda Plant (Zaklady Sodowe Solvay) was located in Matwy N 52-46, E 18-15 near Inowroclaw. It occupied an area of about one square kilometer in the center of Matwy; all houses in the town were coated white from the soda production.
2. The factory employed several thousand workers who worked in three shifts. It was divided into two sections in order that one section could be cleaned while the other was in operation. However, at the time of my visit both sections were working. I was told that production had been stepped up to such a degree that it was necessary to use both sections.
3. [REDACTED] plant could be made to operate with automatically controlled machines. At that time all ministries were interested in increasing production and, at the same time, employing fewer laborers and, if all the necessary equipment were available automatically controlled machines would solve many problems encountered in their plans. However, just the reverse of this situation was true because there was too serious a lack of equipment and materials in Poland to convert any factory. This incident proved to some extent that there was little knowledge on the part of higher ministry officials regarding such problems as automatism in industry.
4. The suggestion that the Solvay Soda Plant be converted to the use of automatically controlled machines was made to the Ministry of the Chemical Industry by Professor KOZUCHOWSKI, who was Director of the Electric Power Laboratory of the Polytechnic Institute in Wroclaw and [REDACTED] Technical Director of the Laboratory for

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Prototypes of Electronic Measuring Devices. While inspecting the plant we found that the plant director was not interested in conversion because this change would have interfered with the premiums he received.

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5. The other two persons [redacted] were Eng. Kazimierz PUSTOLA, consultant for electric machines, and Eng. Kazimierz TERLECKI of the Warsaw Polytechnic Institute. After inspecting the plant, we decided that conversion was impossible, even if equipment for this purpose had been available, because the plant was too old and run down.
  6. The raw materials for production were salt and calcium carbonate. Salt was brought to the factory by pipeline from the neighboring salt mine, which was about 15 km. from the factory. The calcium carbonate was brought in by rail. Water for production was drawn from a lake and brought in by a piping system.
  7. There was a shortage of water for production. We were told that the factory needed about 1,000,000 cu. m. of water monthly and that the system for piping water was not adequate. For this reason in 1951 the factory was building, in addition to the existing system of piping, another water pipeline about 50 km. long. The water after being used, was dumped into the Notec River which was white from the residue. The fish in the river were killed from this residue.
  8. The factory produced soda, caustic soda, calcinated soda, refined soda (dwuweglan sody); and calcium chloride (chlorek wapnia). The products were shipped by rail.
  9. The factory was well guarded by the industrial guard. Our visiting team was issued passes by the Ministry of the Chemical Industry which permitted us to enter and to visit the factory.

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